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come-first-served basis, regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training (*i.e.*, full-time versus less than full-time), during the academic year;

(2) Provide contributions during the current academic year and all subsequent academic years in which the IHL participates in the Yellow Ribbon Program and the student maintains satisfactory progress, conduct, and attendance according to the regularly prescribed standards of the institution;

(3) Limit contributions made on behalf of a participant to funds under the unrestricted control of the IHL (*e.g.*, a scholarship sent directly to an IHL on behalf of an individual or specific group of individuals from a third party may not be included in Yellow Ribbon Program contributions). Funds received directly or indirectly from Federal sources may not be counted toward contributions;

(4) State the maximum number of individuals for whom contributions will be made during the academic year;

(5) State the manner (whether by direct grant, scholarship, or otherwise) contributions will be made under the Yellow Ribbon Program;

(6) State the maximum dollar amount of contributions that may be provided on behalf of any particular individual during the academic year regardless of the rate at which the individual is pursuing training. IHLs may specify different contributions amounts—

(i) Based on student status (*i.e.*, undergraduate, graduate, doctoral), or

(ii) For each subelement of the institution (*i.e.*, college or professional school). The maximum amount specified for each subelement of the IHL will apply to all programs and disciplines offered under such subelement.

(7) Provide the maximum amount of contributions payable toward the unmet established charges to all participating individuals during each term, quarter, or semester the individual is enrolled if the IHL's total contribution toward the individual's unmet established charges for the term, quarter, or semester, do not exceed the maximum dollar amount payable during the academic year as specified in paragraph (d)(6) of this section.

(e) *Centralized Agreements.* IHLs with multiple campuses may enter into a single Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement if all participating branches and extensions—

(1) Are listed in the agreement;

(2) Are subject to the authority of the authorizing official signing the Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement; and

(3) Have a certifying official or other employee who meets the requirements of §21.4266(f)(3)(ii) and who has access to the terms of the Yellow Ribbon Program Agreement.

(f) *Matching Contributions.* VA will match each dollar provided by the school on behalf of an individual; however, the combined amount of contributions under the Yellow Ribbon Program may not exceed the remaining amount of established charges not covered under 38 U.S.C. chapter 3313(c)(1)(A).

(g) *Outreach.* The most current list of colleges and universities participating in the Yellow Ribbon Program will be available at VA's GI Bill Web site at <http://www.gibill.va.gov>. The list will include specific information on each school's agreement with VA.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3317)

PURSUIT OF COURSES

§21.9710 Pursuit.

Except for an eligible individual seeking tuition assistance top-up or reimbursement for taking an approved licensing or certification test, an individual's educational assistance depends upon his or her pursuit of a program of education. Verification of this pursuit is accomplished by various certifications.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3323(c))

§21.9715 Advance payment certification.

All certifications required by this section shall be in a form specified by the Secretary and shall contain such information as specified by the Secretary. An advance payment under this chapter is only permissible to an individual whose rate of pursuit is greater than half-time, and who is entitled to

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the monthly housing allowance as provided in §21.9640(b)(1)(ii) or (b)(2)(ii).

(a) *Certification needed before an advance payment can be made.* In order for an individual to receive an advance payment of the monthly housing allowance, an application or other document must be signed by the individual or the enrollment certification must be signed by an authorized official of the institution of higher learning.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3680(d))

(b) *Advance payments.* All verifications required by this paragraph shall be in a form specified by the Secretary and shall contain such information as specified by the Secretary.

(1) For each eligible individual receiving an advance payment, an institution of higher learning must—

(i) Verify enrollment for the individual; and

(ii) Verify the delivery of the advance payment check to the individual.

(2) Once the institution of higher learning has initially verified the enrollment of the individual, the individual, not the institution of higher learning, must make subsequent verifications in order to release further payment for that enrollment as provided in §21.9730.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3680(d))

§21.9720 Certification of enrollment.

Except as stated in §21.9680, an institution of higher learning must certify an eligible individual's enrollment before he or she may receive educational assistance.

(a) *Institutions of higher learning must certify most enrollments.* VA does not, as a condition of payment of tuition assistance top-up or advance payment, require institutions of higher learning to certify the enrollments of eligible individuals who either are seeking tuition assistance top-up or, in the cases described in §21.9715, are seeking an advance payment. VA does not require organizations or entities offering a licensing or certification test to certify that the eligible individual took the test. In all other cases, the institution of higher learning must certify the eligible individual's enrollment before he

or she may receive educational assistance. This certification must be in a form specified by the Secretary and contain such information as specified by the Secretary.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3014(b), 3031, 3034(a), 3323(a), 3482(g), 3680, 3687, 3689, 5101(a))

(b) *Length of the enrollment period covered by the enrollment certification.* (1) Institutions of higher learning that offer courses on a term, quarter, or semester basis will report enrollment for the term, quarter, semester, ordinary school year, or ordinary school year plus summer term. If the certification covers two or more terms, the institution of higher learning will report each term, quarter, or semester separately.

(2) Institutions of higher learning organized on a year-round basis that do not offer courses on a term, quarter, or semester basis will report enrollment for the length of the course. The certification will include a report of the dates during which the institution of higher learning closes for any intervals designated in its approval data as breaks between school years.

(3) When an eligible individual enrolls in a distance learning program leading to a standard college degree, the institution of higher learning's certification will include—

(i) The enrollment date; and

(ii) The ending date for the period being certified. If the institution of higher learning has no prescribed maximum time for completion, the certification must include an ending date based on the educational institution's estimate for completion.

(Authority: 38 U.S.C. 3034(a), 3323(a), 3684)

(Approved by the Office of Management and Budget under control number 2900-0073)

§21.9725 Progress and conduct.

(a) *Satisfactory pursuit of program.* In order to receive payments of educational assistance under 38 U.S.C. chapter 33 for pursuit of a program of education, an individual must maintain satisfactory progress. VA will discontinue payments of educational assistance if the individual does not maintain satisfactory progress. Progress is unsatisfactory if the individual does not satisfactorily progress